

CHARLES W. HAINES

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THE CIVIC LEAGUE BULLETIN

354



COLORADO SPRINGS
MARCH, 1913

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THE CIVIC LEAGUE BULLETIN

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VOL. I.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO., MARCH, 1913.

No. 11.

OBJECT.

The object of the League is the investigation and improvement of municipal conditions and public affairs in the city of Colorado Springs.

POLICY.

All action of this League shall be distinctly non-partisan, and the League shall, under no circumstances, identify itself at any time, with any political party.

OFFICERS.

MRS. B. W. FOWLER, President.
MRS. L. T. GRAY, First Vice-President.
MRS. G. I. FINLEY, Second Vice-President.
MRS. G. A. BOYD, Third Vice-President.
DR. C. E. SPENCER, Secretary.
MRS. C. B. PEABODY, Corresponding Secretary.
MRS. H. W. CURTIS, Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee is composed of officers of the League and three members at large:

MRS. M. M. SINTON.
MRS. ROBERT KERR.
MRS. VAN DEN AREND.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Council Proceedings—MRS. KERR.
Bulletin—MRS. STURGIS.
Public Health and Sanitation—
Schools—MRS. FINLAY.
Juvenile Aid—MISS TORRENCE.
Amusement and Playgrounds—

The work of each Committee is entrusted to its appointed Chairman, who is authorized to claim assistance from any member of the League, who is able and willing to give it. On application to the chairman of a committee the time and place of its meeting will be furnished. The members of the League will find that our public officials will show them every courtesy in furthering opportunities for carrying on their work.

EDITORIAL.

In Colorado, there are few persons, surviving from an earlier civilization, who will refuse to consider Mrs. Boyd's candidacy for the post of City Commissioner because she is a woman. Let us then pass on to the point of view of those who will vote for her *because* she is a woman.

These people recognize that the hour has struck when the human race must act as a unit if it is to save the civilization of our day from failure and destruction—that to this end, all human effort must combine and that we cannot afford to do without the special qualifications which women can contribute in building up the common weal.

We cannot afford to be blind to all that is passing in the world about us. The voters of Colorado Springs are not called on to try some new and dangerous experiment. In numberless instances, where they have been given the opportunity, women have proved that they can hold office with energy, ability and discretion—that they possess in a marked degree conscience, as well as common sense.

Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard University, who made one of the most telling speeches at the legislative hearing on Woman Suffrage in Boston lately, and whose conversion was completed by a recent visit to Colorado and California, testified that in nearly 30 years of college teaching, he had found neither male mind nor female mind, that the logical processes of both sexes were the same!

Eucken, the modern German philosopher, urges that we need to correct the remarkable present day expansion in material directions, by a deepening of our spiritual forces, if we are to secure anything worthy of being called "life" as a whole. How shall we reach this desired balance in our affairs, if we persist in suppressing the more idealistic, the more humane, conservative and social instincts of the woman half of the race?

In the civil war, for it is nothing less, which is being waged in England at the present

moment, because the constitutionally expressed demand of the women, for the common right of citizenship, was met on the part of the government by an organized treachery and brutality inconceivable in a professedly civilized country, the colors carried by the militant women are white, purple and green. White for purity in private and public life (for these women are fighting for no selfish ends.) Green is the color of hope and of spring, and speaks of the new hope that has entered the world with the woman's movement. Purple as everyone knows, is the royal color. It stands for the royal blood that runs in the veins of every Suffragist, the instinct of freedom and dignity.

Sometimes when the women are speaking in the east end of London, a man calls out "Go home and do the washing." The women patiently point out that other things need washing beside clothes—that politics, for instance, are in a very dirty state, and need women to go in and clean things up a little. Or it is "Go home and mind the baby," and the women reply that there are many weak and helpless in the world, crushed out of life and hope in our modern industrial processes, whom the women would raise and save if they could only get the chance. The conservation of life is peculiarly the woman's province in nature, and on the social side of our civilization we sorely need to utilize this faculty.

In city affairs, the problems which confront our commissioners are as familiar to the woman as to the man. They are problems of social, moral and physical health and well being and of an economical and efficient administration of the common revenues.

We believe that Mrs. Boyd is well able to take her part in solving these problems. That she would bring to bear on them a study as intelligent as it would be conscientious and untiring. We know that she could never be deflected from her duty to the citizens by any personal or party consideration whatever and it is on these grounds (putting the question of sex aside altogether) that we urge her claim on the voters, as one who is thoroughly capable and well qualified to fill the office of commissioner.

BERTHA W. FOWLER.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LEAGUE, 1912-1913.

A general review of the fourth year of the Civic League reveals two important facts, first that the work done has been the result of energy put forth by but few individuals; second, that nevertheless and in spite of this apparently discouraging circumstance, there has been a distinct increase in the interest of the entire membership in the problems of government and its relation to the social, economic and personal life of the community.

It is as if the spirit of democracy were breathing upon the dry bones of our aforetime smug complacency and awakening us to new life.

Throughout the world, mighty forces are at work, the consequence of industrial and social injustice, and of inhuman indifference to the human appeal that these wrongs shall be righted. *not new - Mrs. Kerr this*

Vice is a controlling social and economic factor, exacting its annual tribute of human life, the good and the bad, the just and the unjust alike subject to its sway. *Andrew will have Adams ship*

By reason of these things men and women everywhere are demanding for women equal power with men to meet and change the conditions.

Careful study of the causes, the laws and the institutions under which this state of affairs exists must be made, and there must be new laws, new institutions, and, if need be, new systems of society, should the old prove inadequate to modern life with its manifold material developments.

No less a power than the whole of human wisdom and strength can achieve so vast an end. Neither man nor woman can act alone.

This League, therefore, in its attempt to investigate and improve municipal conditions and public affairs in the city of Colorado Springs, is but a part of the great human striving for life, that it may be more abundant.

The success of the organization depends upon the extent to which individual members realize this fact, and seek to render concrete service.

Fifty-five new members have been added during the year, making a total membership to date of one hundred and eighty-five.

Ten regular meetings of the League have been held during the year; since September, 1912, through the courtesy of the Mayor and City Commissioners, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall.

The Executive Committee has met regularly each month, failing but once of a quorum; and holding one special meeting to consider the matter of the municipal flag, and the answers to questions on health and sanitation propounded by Dr. Hanford on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce.

In April, 1912, the revised Constitution, as presented by the Committee on Revision, Mrs.

*There are no old. The demand looks possible for women
assumes that "Equal power" for women
will cure all ills -*

George I. Finlay, chairman, and accepted by the Executive Committee, was adopted with certain amendments, and the first annual election under this Constitution took place February 14, 1913.

In September, 1912, an invitation to join the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs was presented for action in the Executive Committee.

The President ruled that this matter, under the Constitution of the League, could not be considered, this League not being a woman's club.

The work of the League is accomplished through Standing and Special Committees in cooperation with the Executive Committee.

These committees report as follows:

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

MRS. ROBERT KERR, Chairman.

The Council Proceedings Committee has attended the council meetings at the City Hall during the past year, and though the personnel of the Committee has been changed at times, owing to the occasional absences of the regular members, the work has gone on satisfactorily. The Committee composed of Mrs. Sturgis, Dr. Spencer and Mrs. Kerr, chairman, are indebted to Mrs. L. T. Gray, Mrs. L. P. Guion, Mrs. William H. Evans, Miss Aiken and Mrs. Taft for help in times of need.

Upon recommendation of this committee to the League, our place of meeting was changed to the City Hall, and we have no reason to regret the change. The City Hall seems a fit meeting place for an organization which is devoted to the investigation and improvement of municipal affairs.

Through the efforts of this committee, the League formally presented to the City Council, a request that Cheyenne Avenue be kept open to vehicles and foot passengers as urged in the plan of Charles Mulford Robinson.

A public meeting was called by the City Council at which many members of the League and other citizens were present. Later the Council passed an ordinance leaving open a fifty-foot roadway.

It is worthy of note, that the presence of a number of citizens in the Council Chamber lends strength to any measure which they advocate.

Upon recommendation of the Council Proceedings Committee, the following proposed amendments and ordinances were supported by the League, and a request made to the Council on January 29, 1913, for their enactment into law.

(1) Amendment providing for Preferential Voting.

(2) Amendment providing for the election of each commissioner to the office which he is to occupy.

(3) Ordinance providing for a Permanent City Planning Commission.

(4) An ordinance providing for a rental on the poles and wires of all public utilities using our streets.

The following Auxiliary Committee has been appointed to assist the Council Proceedings Committee: Mrs. H. C. Hall, Mrs. A. N. Taft, Mrs. L. P. Guion, and Mrs. William H. Evans.

BULLETIN.

MRS. W. C. STURGIS, Chairman.

The Bulletin Committee published issues in April, July, October and December.

Articles appearing in the Bulletin upon subjects which have since aroused public interest are as follows:

Report of the Juvenile Aid Committee on the need of the regulation of Public Dance Halls. April, 1912.

A full report of a special committee on Public Health and Sanitation with recommendations for the employment by the city of an expert health physician who shall devote his entire time to the work with provision for adequate inspection in all departments of health. July, 1912.

A plan for the development of Prospect Lake. October, 1912.

A communication from the Mayor to the League explaining the Budget as announced. December, 1912.

A report on garbage disposal made by the agent of the Associated Charities and the Secretary of the League. December, 1912.

There are one hundred and twenty-one subscribers to the Bulletin, eight of these being outside of the League membership.

The Bulletin is sent by request to the Yale University Library, the Survey, New York City, and to Mr. Charles Mulford Robinson of Rochester, New York.

As it costs over eighty dollars to publish the four numbers, the publication is still partially dependent on the general treasury of the League.

This year twenty-eight dollars were made by the sale of small municipal flags to help defray Bulletin expenses.

It will thus be seen that further efforts on the part of the League are necessary to make the Bulletin self-supporting.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT.

MISS JESSIE AIKEN, Chairman.

Statistics gathered on the work of the Vacant Lot Cultivation Association and on gardens for school children.

Efforts have been made to secure the enforcement of the ordinance on weeds.

Information gathered as to what other cities have done to exterminate the dandelion.

Recreation available in Monument Valley Park considered.

On Plant Exchange day, over eighty persons were given shrubs, vines and other plants, the idea being to induce every one to beautify his property as much as possible.

Efforts have been made to stop the ruth-

*Too many committees now
too much machinery
unconstitutional unenforceable!*

less taking up of trees—not to be re-planted. Efforts to lessen the bill-board evil.

The work for a more attractive city is handicapped by these forms of civic ugliness, and the country made hideous by glaring advertisements on rocks and trees.

The smoke nuisance has been studied, but further work here is necessary.

SCHOOLS.

MRS. GEORGE I. FINLAY, Chairman.

The work of the School Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Charles Pelta and Mrs. H. McGarry from January, 1912, to September of that year is embodied in the report on the physical condition of the schools now on file with the secretary of the League. A summary of the report was submitted to the League at its October meeting.

Since September, 1912, the School Committee has been at work on the study of the most approved methods of school administration. Letters were written to school superintendents, commissioners of education and pedagogical experts asking for information and advice on general and special phases of modern administration. School superintendents without exception either failed to answer or forwarded courses of study. From deans of educational departments both east and west, a valuable bibliography has been obtained, and every such courtesy was promptly acknowledged.

Unfortunately neither the public library nor the Colburn is equipped to enable us to more than scratch the surface of the rich field suggested to us. Moreover, the committee has been handicapped by the illness or disability of its regular members. In this emergency the chairman called on members of the League not members of the committee, and on outsiders interested in education to help in the work of summarizing for the use of the chairman such literature as we have been able to obtain. Thanks are especially due to Mrs. Florian Cajori who made an admirable digest of a standard work of six hundred pages. To facilitate the work, a member of the committee, Mrs. D. P. Mayhew, has contributed two books as the nucleus of a collection on the subject of school administration which the committee has set about securing. It is hoped that by making these books easily accessible to League members, a general reading on the subject of education may ensue.

JUVENILE AID.

MRS. WOOD F. WORCESTER, Chairman, until September, 1912.

The work of the Juvenile Aid Committee was largely of an investigating character.

Regularly appointed members of the committee were in attendance at all hearings in the Juvenile Court.

An investigation was made into the causes of juvenile delinquency. A complete list of all the boys and girls who were committed to

the state institutions by the Juvenile Court during the preceeding year was obtained.

Visits were made to the homes of each of these children with a view to obtaining a clearer insight into the environment of the child. With one exception the home conditions were not such as in themselves would have contributed to juvenile delinquency. The chief factor was found to be the absence of legitimate forms of recreation in Colorado Springs. Every girl who had been committed to Morrison had been a frequenter of Robins' Dance Hall. It was the discovery of this last fact, that led the committee to make a preliminary investigation into the dance halls in the city. The completed investigation was not made until the last autumn. The results have already been given publicity.

The policy of the Juvenile Court seemed to be not to commit girls until a character for badness had been fully established; but the mechanism which deals with delinquency operating either through the home or through an institution should be interposed early enough to be preventive. If the facilities for effective treatment are lacking in the home or the community, the institution offers the only substitute.

The state institutions to which delinquents are committed were investigated.

The Boys' Industrial School at Golden was found to be a splendid educational institution. The boys are taught trades in a practical way. The absence of bolts and bars deprived the school of any suggestion of a penal institution. In striking contrast every window was barred at the Girls' Industrial School at Morrison. The girls are trained for the one thing, domestic service.

But modern industrial conditions throw girls as well as boys into the industrial field. It would be practical, therefore, to enlarge the educational facilities at Morrison along the lines of the recently established trade schools for girls.

The investigation made by the United States government into the relation of employment to juvenile delinquency points to the fact that the largest number of prostitutes and juvenile delinquents are recruited from domestic service, which lends additional strength to the argument that girls should be trained for something beyond domestic service.

The study of our own young people, therefore, has shown here, as elsewhere, the importance of industrial training on the one side and the immediate need in Colorado Springs for abundant opportunity for supervised recreation and amusement such as is furnished in other communities by playgrounds, social centers and social settlements.

Under Mrs. Thoron, between the months of September and January, the committee visited:

(1) The County Jail.

The conditions found there bore out the statement laid down by the district attorney as a major premise, "There is no good jail."

No remedy can be suggested until further study is made.

(2) Girls' Industrial School at Morrison, Colorado.

The school is beautifully clean, the food wholesome, the training for domestic service thorough and adequate. The school compares favorably with similar institutions, one in New York, and one in Massachusetts.

(3) Florence Crittenden Home, Denver.

This institution renders a great service to society in the excellent work it is doing in its own department. Here girls who have erred through ignorance, wilfulness, or the pressure of circumstance may be brought back into normal social relations.

In addition to the above, the problem of a satisfactory Detention Home for Colorado Springs was carefully considered. Until recently, there has been no adequate place in which to detain minors while awaiting the decision of the Juvenile Court, but steps are now being taken to remedy this condition.

HYGIENE.

DR. JOSEPHINE PEAVEY, Chairman.

During the year twenty-five talks have been given at the parents' meeting of the different schools.

Dr. Edward Jackson, of Denver, gave a public lecture in the Unitarian Church on medical inspection in the public schools.

It is hoped that the series of lectures by Dr. Agnes Ditson of Denver, on the subject of sex and its problems has accomplished much.

The attendance was most gratifying and a good beginning has been made in the solution of the problem of education in sex.

This subject is occupying the attention of educators and social workers everywhere. Such men as Felix Adler, Dr. Prince Morrow, Dr. Charles Eliot and Havelock Ellis, are writing and speaking on the subject of sex education. They realize the necessity for such instruction and are trying to answer the question as to how and where the instruction shall be given.

CITY PLANNING.

MRS. W. C. STURGIS, Chairman.

The City Planning Committee of the League was enlarged by the addition of interested citizens representing all parts of the city, the Commissioner of Public Works and Property being a member ex-officio.

Six meetings have been held.

Mr. Charles Mulford Robinson, civic architect, discussed with this committee details of the City Plan, and expressed himself much pleased with the cordial reception given him and the interest shown in his work for us.

A copy of Mr. Robinson's manuscript report was sent to the City Planning Committee at the same time it was submitted to the Department of Public Works and Property. The

commissioner of this department asked for and obtained the committee's formal approval of this plan.

Members of the Committee began at once to stand for the recommendations of the expert in the controversy arising over the proposed closing of Cheyenne Avenue. The committee met with the school board, and was represented at the public meeting in the City Hall, and spoke for the carrying out of the plan. A member of the committee spoke twice before the Hillside Improvement Society and at the Columbia and the Lowell Schools.

The League approved a resolution of the committee, requesting the City Council to maintain Cheyenne Avenue open to foot passengers and vehicles, and the Council so ordained, curtailing the width of the roadway to fifty feet. As the city plan calls for a ninety-one-foot street, compromise was apparently unavoidable.

The City Planning Committee were hosts at a reception given Mrs. Charles Perkins at the formal dedication of the tablet commemorating the gift by the Perkins' family of the Garden of the Gods to the city.

With the final publishing of the City Plan, the work of this City Planning Committee came to an end, its last act being a request to the Mayor that he appoint a permanent City Planning Commission to safeguard the provisions of the expert's report and to stimulate interest in the city's development on orderly, consecutive and economical lines.

SPECIAL CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE.

MRS. W. C. STURGIS, Chairman.

Four meetings have been held.

Correspondence with five cities, where permanent City Planning Commissions exist and with citizens of experience in other communities was reported and considered in drafting the ordinance creating a City Planning Commission.

Legal advice was obtained to insure the effectiveness of the ordinance. It was presented to the City Council on February 14, and passed by the Mayor and Council at the regular meeting on March 14.

FLY COMMITTEE.

MRS. GEORGE I. FINLAY, Chairman.

The committee organized April 22, 1912. Through the newspapers, the schools and a house to house canvass in every ward, the main facts about the danger of the fly to the community were placed before the public. Handbills and posters giving information in a condensed form were widely distributed, and through the cooperation of the Department of Public Health, an ordinance was passed requiring the screening of manure piles.

A very general interest in the fly as a disease carrier, was awakened and this should be used as the basis of a town-wide program for its extermination.

What so large a city as Cleveland has ac-

complicated, should not be beyond the powers of Colorado Springs.

The Executive Committee has postponed until further study of Mr. Robinson's plan shall be made, the consideration of a Union Depot, which matter was brought before the League by Mr. E. T. Ensign, chairman of the Union Depot Commission.

The proposed ordinance to secure one day of rest in seven was presented before the League by the Rev. Dr. Hutchinson, Dr. Franklin, Mr. Dunbar Carpenter, and City Attorney Charles L. McKesson—but no action was taken.

A League meeting, open to the public, was addressed by Judge Lindsey and Mr. Eisler upon initiative measures to be submitted to the people in the November election, provided sufficient signatures could be obtained. A discussion followed, and an opportunity to sign was given to any who so desired.

The report on Dance Halls has led to the passage of a resolution by the City Council, establishing a "Recreation and Amusement Commission for the City of Colorado Springs," from which action good results are to be anticipated. The Executive Committee has appointed Mrs. George I. Finlay to represent the League on this Commission.

In the coming year, it is hoped that the members of the League may be yet more alive to their civic obligations and more efficient in the investigation and attempted improvement of municipal conditions and public affairs in the City of Colorado Springs.

CAROLINE E. SPENCER,
Secretary.

Ordinances to come before the people at the election:

REFUNDING OF BONDS.

This is a necessary measure in the judgment of the city's best counsellors, so it will be well not to hamper the efforts to put our finances on a secure basis.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BOND OF \$20,000.

Half of this sum is for automobiles to haul equipment, finishing the stations which are not yet furnished with automobile service. The rest is for interest and for the establishing of a new system of fire alarm in the north end. It is questionable whether we need these things at present as much as some other improvements.

ORDINANCE TO CLOSE CHEYENNE AVE.

A diagonal road in a city of gridiron streets is well known to be an asset of great permanent value. Shall we give it away to a school which will be outgrown in twenty years?

SUNDAY AMUSEMENT ORDINANCE.

The Mayor and City Council have appointed a Commission to study the whole subject of Amusements. Before its recommendations

are presented to the Council, and the relation of Sunday recreation to one day's rest in seven is thoroughly understood, it would be foolish to open the floodgates of commercialized amusement by the passing of such an ordinance at this time.

ORDINANCE FOR ONE DAY'S REST IN SEVEN.

This ordinance as prepared has too many exceptions to be conclusive. A law on this matter is very much needed but should be considered in its relation to Sunday amusements before action is taken.

AMENDMENT TO THE LIQUOR ORDINANCE ALLOWING INTOXICATING LIQUOR IN RESTAURANTS.

The liquor interests are always out to increase their trade. But is their interest truly the city's interest?

AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER.

Preferential Voting and election of Commissioners to the offices they will fill.

By preferential voting it has been proved in other cities that the will of the people is more easily and economically expressed than by the present method. The other provision gives a better hope that we can obtain Commissioners who have knowledge and experience to bring to their special work.

AMENDMENT TO ABOLISH THE SECOND REGISTRATIONS IN PRECINCTS.

This aims for the economy feature of the preferential voting amendment. Our second election cost the city at the last election eight dollars and thirteen cents per registered voter. If preferential voting does not carry, at least we should have this simple way of saving money put through.

Chairman (pro tem) Council Proceedings.

A STATEMENT FROM MRS. BOYD.

Commissioners should be chosen for their qualifications as to honesty, economy, efficiency and ability rather than their service to political parties. They should have these qualities by all means but they may also possess imagination sufficient to conceive the greater problems of justice, health, beauty and morality.

Public health should be protected by modern sanitary methods, such as medical inspection of schools, registration of contagious diseases, isolation of infection, fumigation of infected premises, safe disposal of garbage and care of food on market.

Public safety has more to do with problems of intemperance, gambling and prostitution than with theft and murder. The police department should be divorced from the commercialized vicious forces of a city.

The building of a city should be after a plan that has a vision of its future develop-

ment. There is a growing sentiment in the minds of many women that power to act is necessary as well as power to request if their newer ideals of justice shall ever prevail.

Caroline Bartlett, of Kalamazoo, had to go on the street with her corps of workers in order to convince that city that the streets could be kept clean.

Miss Roche, of Denver, is now demonstrating the value of supervision of amusements as well as the effect of police power in the hands of a woman. She may censor films, arrest offenders and close dance halls, but what is still better she is winning respect for law by teaching its purpose to those who otherwise might be offenders.

JENNY SHELLEY BOYD,
Candidate for City Commissioner.

PREFERENTIAL VOTING.

In a government by universal suffrage, elective public officials should be the choice as nearly as possible of a majority of the voters. It would be absurd to elect a saloon candidate as Mayor to enforce an ordinance, adopted by the people, making a town "dry." It is therefore axiomatic that only those public officials should be elected who believe in the policies supported by a majority of the voters. The preferential system of voting comes nearer to accomplishing this result than any other system of voting known.

The framers of our City Charter thought they had attained majority rule when they adopted the dual election plan, which is briefly as follows: At the first election, only those candidates receiving a majority of the vote cast are elected. If there is any office for which no candidate receives a majority, then there is a second election from which all candidates, except the two receiving the highest votes at the first election, are eliminated. The one who receives the highest vote at the second election is elected. But such a candidate is necessarily a minority candidate for if he had been the candidate of the majority he would have been elected the first time. To say that the man finally chosen at the second election, when the choice is limited to two, is a majority candidate is to ignore the fact that voters are here given only a "Hobson's Choice."

The disadvantages of our present system are:

1. Two elections double the expenses,
 - (a) of the City,
 - (b) of the candidates.
2. Experience shows that the voters lose interest after the first election, and that a much smaller vote is cast at the second election.

An obvious explanation for this fact is that those who supported a candidate who has been dropped often do not care to support either of

the two highest candidates, and accordingly they do not vote at the second election.

3. A candidate who ran third can often choose which of the two successful candidates shall be elected by throwing his influence to one or the other. Such support is usually accorded more from pique to one of the successful two than on account of the merits of the candidates.

4. A candidate of a special interest is very likely to be one of the two highest at the first election, for

(a) He has an organization behind him, and the vote it can influence is concentrated on him.

(b) Other candidates, having no particular backing, divide the votes of the anti-special interest citizens.

5. The two highest men may be and often are the choice of a very small minority, for example: Suppose five candidates for Mayor and five thousand votes cast at the first election. The votes may be so evenly distributed that each candidate receives approximately one thousand votes. Then A, who has one thousand and two votes, and B, who has one thousand and one votes are the sole candidates at the second election; C, D and E, who have nine hundred ninety-nine votes each being eliminated. The final result is that either A or B, who are the choices of only one-fifth of the voters, gets the office. The final winner is often nothing more than the less objectionable of two candidates, neither of whom could get a majority of the votes. There are other valid objections to our present system, which lack of space forbids taking up here.

The preferential system is very simple. There are three columns on the ballot after the name of each candidate. In the first column you vote for the candidate who is your first choice, in the second column, for your second choice, in the third, for all your other choices, as many as you wish. If, when the ballots are counted, one candidate has received a majority of the first choice votes, he is thereby elected, and second and other choices are not counted. But if no candidate receives a majority of first choice votes, the second choice votes for each candidate are added to his first choice votes, and if one candidate gets a majority of the first and second choice votes he is elected. But if there is still no candidate having a majority, the other-choice votes of each candidate are added to his first and second choice votes, and the candidate who receives the highest number of all the choices added together, whether or not a majority, is elected.

The advantages of the preferential voting are:

1. It eliminates a second election, thus saving expense both to the City and to the candidates.
2. It shortens the campaign, and, by mak-

ing the one election final, attracts greater public attention, and a larger vote.

3. By enabling the voter to vote for several candidates it tends to an examination by the voter of the merits of all the candidates.

4. Your first choice is likely to be determined by friendship to the candidate. Your second and other choices are likely to be determined by the merits of the candidates, and thus the candidate receiving the highest number of other choice votes is likely to be the man whom the voters prefer because of his qualifications.

5. When there is a matter of public policy upon which the candidates are divided, you will naturally vote for all the candidates who support your side. For example; if the question is of municipal ownership, and there are five candidates for Mayor in favor and five against municipal ownership, you will vote for the five who support the side you are on. By so doing, you are not merely voting in favor of your candidate, but you are voting against those on the other side. For your vote is bound to count, and one of the candidates who is on that side of the question supported by a majority of the citizens will win—which is as it should be. Under our present system, it is easily possible to elect a man who is against the views of the majority; for example, suppose that there are two candidates, A and B, against municipal ownership and five, V, W, X, Y and Z for it; that 4,000 voters are against municipal ownership and 6,000 for it; that A and B divide the anti-vote, each receiving 2,000 votes, and V, W, X, Y and Z split the 6,000 votes, each receiving less than 2,000; then at the final election the 6,000 municipal ownership voters, if they go to the polls at all, must either write the name of a municipal ownership candidate on the ballot—and it would be impossible to get many voters to unite on one man and write his name in,—or vote for either A or B, both of whom oppose municipal ownership. So the wishes of 6,000 voters, a majority, would be disregarded.

It is a common trick for a political machine or a boss, or a special interest to get a large number of candidates to run on the other side, with the object of splitting the vote of their opponents. Under the preferential system, 4,000 votes would be cast for A and B, 2,000 for each on first choice and 2,000 for each on second choice—there being no third choice candidate for those against municipal ownership. And 6,000 votes would be cast for V, W, X, Y and Z; so that *ex hypothesi* a majority favoring municipal ownership, no matter how the vote was divided among these five, one of them having the views of the majority would necessarily be elected. This system permits the voters who believe alike on certain vital principles automatically to group themselves behind the candidates who best reflect them thus achieving a real

majority election and defeating the generally vicious and always highly organized minority.

There will always be a majority of the voters behind the winner, unless the list of nominees contains no one who can command a majority. Then we have the next best thing and the best possible with that list of nominees, a successful candidate who has the greatest number of voters behind him.

DUNBAR CARPENTER

SCHOOL NOTES.

On May 5 the terms of two members of the Board of Education expire. Judge Kinney has served for ten years from 1903 to 1913, and Mr. Eubank since 1910. Mr. Kinney since November has been judge of the County Court; and Mr. Eubank is a candidate for the office of city commissioner in the coming election.

Who the successors of these directors shall be is a matter of much concern to the friends of the schools. It is hoped that the campaign will arouse a wide discussion of school issues, and that the candidates will state publicly their position on school questions of vital importance. An increasing lay element in the community is developing an intelligent interest in school problems, and the time is fast coming when a public knowledge of what is being done for our schools will be a powerful instrument in the furtherance of a progressive administrative policy.

The movement for the use of school buildings as social centers has grown apace since last September. Amusement our young people are bound to have; and the community must provide it, if it is alive to its duty of making good and happy citizens. Miss Roach, inspector of amusements in Denver, addressed the Civic League at its March meeting. She was asked what could be done to stem the tide of doubtful attractions drawing boys and girls away from their homes. "Make each school the neighborhood center," she replied, "and give dances, moving picture shows, lectures and the like in it. Fathers and mothers are glad to go with their children when they get the chance, and when it does not mean long journeys into another part of town."

In 1904 an "open air recovery school" was started in Germany, and these schools have spread rapidly and steadily over Germany, France and England. Providence, R. I., took up the work in 1907, and it was followed by Boston, New York, Chicago and many other cities, but only after private agencies had first demonstrated at their own expense that life in the open air builds up the health of anemic and tubercular children, and at the same time improves their mental vigor and their school attendance.